

Maryland State Board of Victim Services Meeting
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Wednesday, January 25, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Steve Kelly, Esq., Chair
Heather Amador for Interim Acting Executive Director Veronica Moulis
Anne Bean
Tiffany Bright for Attorney General Anthony G. Brown
David Shultie for Lou Gieszl
Theresa Hiegel
Sheriff Gary Hofmann
Molly Knipe
Anne Colt Leitess, Esq.
Jill Ritter
Lisa Spicknall-Horner
Jacqueline Turner for Acting Secretary Rafael Lopez
Patricia Stevens for Secretary Carolyn Scruggs
Jeanne Yeager

Guests:

Karen Darby, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Stephanie Erdice, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Ananya Ghemawat, ReloShare
Laurie Kimbles, Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office
Jairo Nunez, Ayuda
Heather Warnken, Center for Criminal Justice Reform
Lydia Watts, ROAR Center

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention Youth, and Victim Services Staff:

Rebecca Allyn, Melissa Bitting, Marianne Camino

I. Introductions and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. Ms. Allyn conducted a roll call and guests introduced themselves.

II. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda contained the October 2022 Board meeting minutes and updates from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Updates: A Victim Services Quarterly meeting is scheduled for February 7 at 1 pm. Invites were sent to all authorized officials and project directors for current victim services grants. The Office plans to issue state

grant Notice of Funding Availabilities (NOFAs) in February and federal grant NOFAs in April.

Ms. Bean made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

III. Safe Stays Presentation

Ms. Ghemawat with ReloShare provided members and guests with a presentation on Safe Stays by ReloShare. [Safe Stays](#) is a new, free-to-use hotel booking website designed to make it faster and easier to book hotel rooms for survivors of crime. Safe Stays users can search for and book rooms at hotels with no credit card or ID requirement at check-in at our alias-approved locations.

IV. MSBVS Initiatives

- *2023 Crime Victims' Rights Week*

National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be held April 23-29, 2023. The 33rd Memorial Services for Crime Victims and Their Families will be hosted by the Calvert, Cecil, Montgomery and Wicomico County State's Attorneys' Offices on Sunday, April 23, 2023. The memorial service locations can be found at <http://goccp.maryland.gov/2023memorials/>.

The [2023 Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference](#) will be held on Thursday, April 27 from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Judicial College of Maryland in Annapolis. Virtual attendance via Zoom will be available. The draft agenda will be shared with members, and conference topics will include trafficking, serving LGBTQ+ victims, the address confidentiality program, public benefits for immigrant survivors, remote hearings for protective orders, financial abuse, truth in sentencing, and homicide survivors. The Governor's Victim Assistance Awards will be presented at the conference, and members will assist with reviewing the nominations.

- *Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) Grant*

Ms. Allyn informed members that the NOFA for the Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) grant will be issued in February, in addition to the Legal Services for Crime Victims grant. Additional priorities added for MVOC are virtual services and mental and behavioral health treatment for crime victims. Members will assist with reviewing applications.

- *Victim Response to Mass Violence Subcommittee*

The Board has assisted the Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Workgroup (AAIWG) with developing guidance for victim response for mass violence incidents and the Board provided input for the *Emergency People Search and Recovery Guidance* document. This document has now been renamed *Support Services for Mass Casualty Incidents: Guidance and Best Practices*. The workgroup is beginning to issue training on the guidance document.

- *Victim/Witness Relocation Program*

Ms. Allyn will begin to schedule monthly meetings to finalize the recommendations for the Victim and Witness Relocation Program guidelines.

V. Legislation

Members discussed victim services related legislation introduced during the 2023 Legislative Session.

- [HB 4/SB 129](#) - Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense
- [HB 3/SB 185](#) - Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders
- [SB 292/HB 297](#) - Criminal Law - Victims of Child Sex Trafficking and Human Trafficking - Safe Harbor and Service Response
- [SB 148/HB 186](#) - Victim Services Programs – Supplementing Federal Funding and Support (Victim Services Stabilization Act)

Members also discussed legislation that was introduced in previous years to cover strangulation forensic exams and whether it would be introduced this year. Ms. Allyn will monitor this. Ms. Watts and Ms. Warnken shared information on legislation related to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board that is in the drafting process. The bill will aim to amend certain eligibility requirements to increase the amount of people that could access compensation.

Mr. Kelly shared that the state statute is poorly written for victims' involvement and presence at vacatur hearings is a gap in victims' rights. Mr. Kelly would like to address this topic further at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Allyn informed members that if there are any bills that they want the Board to consider supporting or opposing, members need to provide the bill information to her as soon as possible for review.

VI. Old/New Business

None at this time.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/hfq-mjbp-yhc

Phone Number: 1 949-393-2304

PIN: 224 884 915#